Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Fifty million Americans have experienced tinnitus, otherwise known as the perception of noises, including ringing in the ears and head, when no external sound source is present; and,

Whereas, Twelve million of these Americans experience tinnitus to an incessant and debilitating degree during which the sounds in their ears and heads never abate, forcing them to seek medical attention; and,

Whereas, Tinnitus is frequently caused by exposure to loud noises in recreational settings, where decibel levels of sound can reach traumatic levels and where participants frequently are not aware that temporary ringing in the ears can become permanent after continued exposure; and,

Whereas, In many cases, simply wearing proper hearing protection would protect people from tinnitus, hearing loss, or from further damaging their hearing; and,

Whereas, Many people with tinnitus are told that the only solution to their condition is to "learn to live with it"; and,

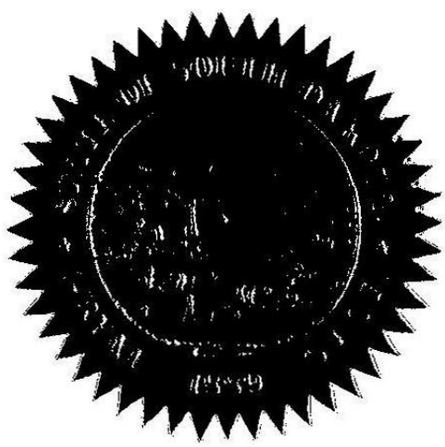
Whereas, Treatments for tinnitus are available that can help reduce the stress of incessant ringing and increase the coping skills and quality of life for people who experience the condition; and,

Whereas, The American Tinnitus Association has as its mission the charge to silence tinnitus through education, advocacy, research, and support, and is celebrating the first National Tinnitus Awareness Week to raise public awareness:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 15-22, 2004, as

TINNITUS AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State